

Applicants: Robert J. Winchester, et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims by replacing all prior versions, and listings, of claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis or other forms of inflammatory arthritis which comprises administering to a subject an amount of an agent effective to inhibit the activation of the CxCR4 receptor by SDF-1.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is oligopeptide or a polypeptide.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an antibody or a portion of an antibody.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of claim 3, wherein the antibody is a human, a chimeric, an antibody or a humanized antibody.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is a nonpeptidyl agent.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5, wherein the nonpeptidyl agent is a bicyclam.

Claim 7 (canceled)

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Claim 8 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 7, wherein the agent is oligopeptide or a polypeptide.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 7, wherein the agent is an antibody or a portion of an antibody.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 9, wherein the antibody is a human chimeric or humanized antibody.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for determining whether an agent is capable of inhibiting the activation of a CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1 comprising:

- (a) contacting a cell which expresses CXCR4 receptor in the presence of SDF-1 with an agent under condition permitting activation of the CxCR4 by SDF-1 if the agent is absent; and
- (b) determining whether that amount of activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1 is decreased in the presence of the agent relative to the amount of activators in its absence, such a decrease in the amount of activation indicating that the agent is capable of inhibiting the activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein the cell is a lymphocyte or monocyte.

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Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein the cell is an animal cell.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A composition ~~for treating rheumatoid arthritis~~ comprising (a) an effective amount of a bicyclam capable of inhibiting the activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1, ~~which amount is effective to treat rheumatoid arthritis,~~ and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition is indicated for treating rheumatoid arthritis.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18, wherein the bicyclam is AMD3100.